Illegal Operation of STD Sooths

† 4514. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD booths allotted to handicapped and unemployed persons are being operated by other persons illegally;

(b) whether Government have taken any action thereto along with the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether any connivance of employees of Telephone Department has come to notice; and

(d) the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 3 cases of STD booths allotted to handicapped person by BSNL were reported being operated by non-bonafide persons in last two years. All the three PCOs which were found to be used illegally have been disconnected. No such complaint has been received in MTNL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

USO Fund for Rural Telephony

4515. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the Telegraph Act in order to incorporate a clause whereby fixed line wireless services providers in rural areas are provided Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering seriously to work out the details of providing USO fund for rural telephony to fixed line wireless

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.